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Catechismal Edition

Infantry Drill Regulations

Extended Order

Maj. WM. F SPURGIN
23rd Infantry, U. S. A.

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THIRD EDITION.

CATECHISMAL EDITION

OF THE

Infantry Drill Regulations

UNITED STATES ARMY.

EXTENDED ORDER.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES; LEADING THE SQUAD; THE SQUAD; THE PLATOON; THE COMPANY; THE BATTALION; THE REGIMENT; THE BRIGADE IN BATTLE; THE DIVISION IN BATTLE.

PREPARED BY

Major WM. F. SPURGIN, 23D Infantry.

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GENERAL

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THE object of this book is to bring out prominently by means of questions and answers every statement made in the Infantry Drill Regulations, **Extended Order,** and in so doing to strictly follow the text.

The numbers denote the paragraphs of the Infantry Drill Regulations.

11715

EXTENDED ORDER.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

502. **What unit is the basis of extended order?**

The squad.

What will men be taught to regard the squad?

As the unit from which they ought never to be separated.

What should the members of the squad do should the same order begin?

They should place themselves under the orders of the nearest leader and remain with his squad, as if it were the one to which they originally belonged.

To what object will officers and sergeants give their attention?

To the preservation of the integrity of the squads.

What action will the officers and sergeants take when necessary?

They will appoint new leaders to replace those disabled, organize new squads, and see that every man is placed in a squad.

503. **When should instruction in the principles of extended be broken up, or should they become separated from it?**

Because of its importance it will be given as soon as the recruits have had a few drills in close order.

How is the mechanism of the movement taught?

On the drill-ground with every attention to detail Afterwards the movements are executed on varied

ground, making use of the accidents of the surface for cover, etc., and observing the conditions of battle.

504. **With what reference must the movements in all instruction in extended order be made?**

To an enemy supposed to be in an indicated direction.

505. **When is the enemy said to be "imaginary"?**

When his position and force are merely assumed.

When is the enemy said to be "outlined"?

When his position and force are indicated by a few men only.

When is the enemy said to be "represented"?

When a body of troops, acting as such, has his supposed force and position.

506. **At what do men in extended order fix their attention?**

At the first word of command, the first note of the trumpet, or the first motion of the signal.

When does the movement commence?

Immediately upon the completion of the command, trumpet call, or signal.

507. **From what formations may extended order be taken?**

From any formation.

508. **What will the men, whether in squads or as individual skirmishers, do upon arriving on the line and upon halting?**

Face to the front.

509. **What commands for dressing are given in extended order?**

None.

In what direction is the general alignment taken?

Towards the base file.

How do the men carry themselves?

They stand and march at ease (see Par. 246), and pay close attention.

510 **When necessary for any chief to leave his post, when will he return to it?**

As soon as possible.

LEADING THE SQUAD.

511. **In the exercise in leading, how are the squads notified of the movements to be executed?**

By signals from the corporal and as far as possible without commands or caution.

What is the object of this plan of communication?

To prepare the squad for the battle exercises by training the men to coöperate with their leader and conform instantly to his wishes.

512. **In what manner of progression are the movements taught?**

The movements are executed in the most direct manner, first in quick time, then in double time, and finally at a run; they should not succeed each other so rapidly as to produce confusion.

513. **Where is the corporal posted when the squad marches?**

Three paces in the rear of his squad.

To what will the squad conform when marching?

To the signals and movements of the corporal.

514. **In what movements is the squad exercised?**

In turning, marching to the front, rear, and by the flank, obliquing, halting, assembling, etc.

515. **Who is the guide of the squad?**

The man in front of whom the corporal places himself.

How does he regulate his movements?

He follows in the trace of the corporal at a distance of three paces.

516. **When the corporal does not wish the squad to follow him, how does he indicate the fact?**

He commands: *Guide (right* or *left)*, and indicates the point of direction; if marching by the flank, he indicates the direction.

517. **Where is the corporal's position when the squad is marched to the rear?**

In front of the squad.

THE SQUAD.

GENERAL RULES.

518. **When is the squad deployed forward?**

When it is in rear of the line to be occupied.

When is the squad deployed by the flank?

When it is already on the line to be occupied.

If the squad be at a halt, and it is desired to deploy it forward, what must first be done?

It must be placed in march.

If the squad be in march, and it is desired to deploy it by the flank, what must first be done?

It is halted.

519. **What is the normal interval between skirmishers?**

Two paces.

If a greater or less interval is used, when will it be stated?

In the preparatory command.

520. **What does the corporal do before giving the commands for marching, deploying, or assembling, or for increasing or diminishing intervals?**

He indicates the file which is to be the base or guide, places himself three paces in front of it, and indicates the direction.

On halting, where does the corporal place himself?

Three paces in the rear of his squad.

521. **On which man of the squad is the deployment as skirmishers made?**

On the front rank man of the second file from the right (No. 2).

Where do the rear rank men place themselves?

On the alignment to the right of their file leaders, each, as soon as there is interval.

522. **If it is desired that the squad shall kneel or lie down upon halting, when does the corporal give the cautionary command "Kneel" (or "Lie down") upon halting?**

Before giving the commands for deploying.

What is the continued effect of such an order?

The squad will then kneel (or lie down) at each halt until otherwise directed.

TO DEPLOY AS SKIRMISHERS.

523. **Marching in line, give the commands and explanation to deploy forward.**

1. *As Skirmishers*, 2. MARCH. The front rank man, second file (Par. 521), moves straight to the front or in the direction indicated by the corporal.

The other men oblique to the right or left, according as they are on the right or left of the second file, increasing the cadence, each resuming the direction and cadence of the guide when at his interval (Par. 519) and on the alignment. The rear rank men follow or precede their file leaders on the line, according as they gain intervals to the right or left.

When the squad arrives upon the line to be occupied, the corporal halts it by the commands: 1. *Squad*, 2. HALT.

524. **Being in line at a halt, give the commands and explanation to deploy by the flank.**

1. *As Skirmishers*, 2. MARCH. The base (Par. 521) stands fast; the other men move rapidly to the right or left, according as they are on his right or left, each man halting on the line when he has gained his interval.

TO INCREASE AND DIMINISH INTERVALS.

525. **Being deployed as skirmishers, give the commands to increase or diminish intervals.**

1. *To* (so many) *paces*, *extend* (or *close*), 2. MARCH. The skirmishers open from or close toward the guide.

If marching, how is the movement executed?

By obliquing and increasing the cadence.

If at a halt, how is the movement executed?

By the flank.

MARCHINGS.

526. **Being deployed and halted, give the commands to move forward.**

1. *Forward*, 2. MARCH. The skirmishers take the direction and keep their intervals from the side toward the guide.

527. **Being deployed at a halt or advancing, give the commands to march to the rear.**

1. *To the rear*, 2. MARCH. The men face about and march to the rear conforming to the principles of the march to the front. The corporal moves quickly in front of the guide.

Give the commands to march again to the front.

1. *Forward*, 2. MARCH.

528. **Give the commands and explanation to march by the flank.**

1. *By the right* (or *left*) *flank*, 2. MARCH. At the command *March*, each man faces to the right and follows the man in front. The corporal moves quickly beside the leading man to conduct him (see Par. 516).

Marching by the flank, give the commands to march again in line.

1. *By the left* (or *right*) *flank*, 2. MARCH.

529. **By what commands is the squad halted, it being in march, either to the front, rear, or by the flank?**

1. *Squad*, 2. HALT.

530. **The squad being deployed, how is change of front or direction effected?**

The corporal indicates the direction and commands: 1. *Squad right* (or *left*), 2. MARCH; or, 1. *Right* (or *left*) *turn*, 2. MARCH, according as the squad is to halt or advance; executed as in Pars. 140 and 141, the skirmishers maintaining their intervals.

TO RALLY.

531. **For what purpose is the rally used?**

For immediate and concentrated action.

When is the rally used?

When there is not time to form in the normal order.

Where should the rally be made?

Either on the line or in advance of it.

By what command is the movement ordered?

The corporal signals or commands: RALLY.

How is the movement executed?

The men run toward the corporal and group themselves in single or double rank, in line, in circle, in semi-circle, or in such other formation as he directs, and fix bayonet.

If the corporal continues to advance, what disposition will the men of the squad make of themselves?

They form in rear of him in single or double rank as he directs, and follow him, fixing bayonet.

What movements may the squad execute, being rallied?

It may advance or deploy.

In deploying from the rally, where do the skirmishers go?

They return to their former places.

THE ASSEMBLY.

532. **Being deployed or rallied, by what commands is the assembly ordered?**

The corporal signals or commands: 1. *Assemble.* 2. MARCH.

How is the movement executed?

The men move toward the corporal and form in their proper places.

If the corporal continues to advance, how is the movement executed?

The men move in double time, form, and follow him.

When will assembling be not executed?

When faced or marching to the rear.

533. **When the preceding movements are well understood, how are they executed?**

At signals.

FIRE DISCIPLINE.

534. **What will the instructor impress upon the men?**

The importance of the "Fire Discipline" general rules, the exceptions thereto, and the instructions relative to distances and individual firing.

GENERAL RULES.

State the general rules relative to firing.

1. Never load until the moment for firing.
2. Never fire except when ordered, and then only the number of cartridges indicated.
3. Never fire after the command or signal *Cease firing.*
4. Never fire except at the named objective.
5. Never fail to adjust the sight at the range named.
6. Always aim at the feet of the enemy, or, if he is hidden from view, at the lower line of smoke.

535. **Notwithstanding these rules, when is it allowable, especially for scouts, to fire when necessary?**

(a) To give the alarm.
(b) When a good opportunity occurs to fire upon a leader of the enemy.
(c) In self-defense.

536. **By what rules will individual men, who may be acting beyond the immediate control of leaders, be governed?**

They will not fire at distances over—
400 yards at a man lying down.
500 yards at a man kneeling.
600 yards at a man standing.
700 yards at a horseman.
800 yards at a small squad of men or a line of skirmishers.

What permission may be granted to sharpshooters?

To fire upon the enemy at greater distances.

By whom must this authority be granted?

By an officer.

537. **When are volleys by squads used against troops in close order?**

At distances not exceeding—
800 yards at a line equal to the front of a squad.
1,000 yards at a line equal to the front of a platoon.
1,200 yards at a line equal to the front of a company.

Are these limits invariable?

No. They may be exceeded under favorable conditions when the range is accurately known, but should always be reduced when the men are tired or out of breath, the range uncertain, the enemy under cover, or the conditions of wind and light unfavorable.

When may volleys be fired at extreme ranges?

When the supply of ammunition is ample and the enemy is in large bodies.

538. **At what distances are the fire at will and the fire with counted cartridges used?**

At those ranging from 800 to 400 yards.

539. **When is the rapid fire used?**

At short ranges at the decisive moment of the action.

540. **State the classification of the ranges.**

0 to 300 yards, short range.
300 to 600 yards, mid range.
600 to 1,400 yards, long range.
1,400 to 2,000 yards, extreme range.

FIRINGS.

541. **What is demanded of the instructor in the firings?**

He will give the closest attention to the execution of the firings, and always exact the most rigid fire discipline.

542. **At what position are the firings always executed?**

At a halt.

If the squad be in the march, and the command to fire is given, when does the squad halt?

At the preparatory command for firing.

What does it do upon halting?

Loads, and kneels or lies down if so specified in the command.

543. **How is the volley firing executed by the squad?**

By the same commands and means as in close order, and this, too, whether the squad is closed or is deployed.

What number of volleys will rarely be fired without intermission?

More than three.

What is the object of this regulation?

To allow the smoke to clear away, to steady the men, and to prevent waste of ammunition.

544. **Give the commands to fire at will, and the instructions relative to same.**

1. *Fire at will,* or, 1. *Fire at will, kneeling* (or *lying down*), 2. *At* (such an object), 3. *At* (so many) *yards,* 4. COMMENCE FIRING.

At the fourth command, those skirmishers who can see the enemy aim deliberately, fire, load, and continue the firing until the command or signal: CEASE FIRING.

How may the corporal regulate the intensity of the firing?

He may permit a few men only, usually the best shots, to fire; for this purpose he calls the men by name, and then gives the same commands as before; the intensity of the fire is thus regulated by varying the number of men firing.

545. **Give the commands and explanation to fire as skirmishers with counted cartridges.**

1. *Fire one (two* or *three) round,* 2. *At* (such an object), 3. *At* (so many) *yards,* 4. COMMENCE FIRING.

At the fourth command, those skirmishers who can see the enemy open fire. Each man, after firing the number of cartridges indicated, executes *Cease firing.*

To fire another series: FIRE ONE (TWO or THREE) ROUND.

To what will the instructor give attention?

That the number of cartridges indicated is never exceeded.

546. **In what firing is the number of cartridges unlimited?**

In the rapid fire.

When using the rapid fire in advancing to the attack, what orders and commands will the instructor give?

He orders bayonets fixed and sights laid down, and then commands: 1. *Rapid fire,* 2. COMMENCE FIRING.

How do the men execute the rapid fire?

They fire straight to the front at the feet of the enemy, and continue to fire until the command or signal: CEASE FIRING.

INSTRUCTION ON VARIED GROUND.

547. **To whom will the instruction on varied ground be taught at first?**

To individuals.

By whom will the movements be afterward executed?

The entire squad.

548. **By whom is this instruction directed?**

By the company officers.

Where is it given?

On ground which has been previously selected with reference to the movements to be executed.

With what object should the location be frequently changed?

To accustom the men to new situations.

With reference to what will care be taken?

Never to order movements at variance with the accidents of the ground.

549. **How will the instructor proceed in imparting instruction?**

Having conducted the squad to a point overlooking the vicinity, the instructor will call attention to the form of the ground and the different military purposes to which its features are adaptable, using and explaining the military terms that apply; he will require the men to point out the leading features of the country in sight or near their position, with all that concerns the streams, roads, woods, inhabited places, etc.

550. **What further will he explain?**

He will explain how to determine the points of the compass, the points of sunrise and sunset, the position of the sun at different hours of the day, and the length of the shadows cast by objects, persons, etc.

USE OF COVER.

551. **What must the instructor impress upon the men?**

That they must take positions from which they can best see and fire upon the enemy.

552. **Which kind of cover is the best?**

That which, while it masks the skirmishers from the sight and fire of the enemy, affords favorable conditions for firing and for readily advancing and retiring.

553. **State the two ends desirable to be obtained by men under cover.**

To obtain a rest for the rifle, and at the same time expose the least part of the body while aiming.

Enumerate the methods prescribed for obtaining these ends.

Take post preferably behind the right of walls, rocks, heaps of stone or earth, and in the windows and doorways of the houses on the left side of a street; behind a tree, rest the rifle on a limb to the right, or rest the forearm against the right side of the trunk.

Behind embankments of earth, in ditches and furrows, kneel or lie down and rise slightly to fire; lie down in rear of a crest or the edge of a plateau, keeping the slope toward the enemy in view.

At the edge of a wood, where there is no ditch nor bank of earth, remain a little back from the edge, under the cover of the first trees.

What will the instructor teach the men?

How to prepare the crest of a wall, and how to pierce loopholes or construct platforms when the wall is too high to fire over.

554. **What will the instructor teach as to the ground cover?**

He explains the circumstances under which each accident of the ground would be valuable as cover, and how to use it, both in its original condition and by modifying it, against an enemy supposed to be in a certain direction.

What is then required of the recruits?

To post themselves near points indicated, so as to be under cover and in position to fire upon a point about six hundred yards distant, indicated as the position of the enemy.

What does each one do?

Each selects his own position so as to have a good view of the objective, and sets his sight at the range indicated.

The foregoing having been accomplished, what follows?

The men then change places.

In what manner is the exercise repeated?

On different grounds, and with a different objective.

555. **Who personates the enemy, and what is required of him?**

A well-instructed soldier or non-commissioned officer is then placed in the position of the enemy and required to advance upon the skirmishers.

What are the skirmishers taught to do at this time?

To carefully observe his movements and aim at him whenever he exposes himself, adjusting the sight to agree with distance (Par. 536).

556. **When the recruits have learned to post themselves at points indicated by the instructor, in what are they exercised?**

In selecting their own points, advancing from cover to cover.

How is the enemy represented, and how are the recruits taught to advance?

The instructor sends a man to a point about six hundred yards distant to represent the enemy; a recruit is then directed to advance upon him. In order to keep out of sight of the enemy, the recruit must make the best use of cover, but must not deviate too much from his direction; he must stoop and even creep or crawl, but, if possible, never lose sight of the enemy; open ground exposed to the fire of the enemy should be crossed at a run, by rushes of about thirty yards, then taking the lying position and raising the head in order to see the enemy.

The rushes should not, as a rule, exceed fifty yards, else the skirmishers will be winded and unable to aim accurately.

In this manner he should advance to about 200 yards from the enemy, and nearer if the character of the ground permit.

What is required of the man representing the enemy?

The man representing the enemy may be provided with blank cartridges and required to fire upon the skirmisher whenever he exposes himself sufficiently to afford a target (Par. 536).

557. **When are the movements executed by the squad?**

When the recruits are well instructed in the use of cover.

What instruction is given the squad in reference to the movements?

The instructor points out the position of the enemy at least 600 yards distant, and states clearly the object of the movement. The corporal, as squad leader, gives the commands necessary.

BATTLE EXERCISES.

558. **What movements may the squad execute on varied ground?**

All the movements prescribed for close and extended order.

To what will special attention be given?

To the exercises in leading.

Upon whom will those skirmishers, who cannot hear or see the corporal, regulate themselves?

Upon the nearest men, who may transmit the commands to them in a low tone.

The squad having become proficient in the movements in extended order, how is the enemy indicated?

Either outlined or represented.

What is the character of the firing in the battle exercises?

In general the fire is simulated; but it is important, in these exercises, that blank cartridges should frequently be used.

When will both parties cease firing?

When within one hundred yards of each other.

If they are deployed as skirmishers, which party may be ordered to charge?

The attacking party.

How do the squads pass, and when halt?

The men in each squad pass through the intervals in the other, each man passing to the right of the man directly in his front, both squads halt at the command of the instructor.

When the exercises are continued, what occurs?

The squads exchange positions.

THE PLATOON.

GENERAL RULES.

559. **Who is the instructor of the platoon?**

The chief of platoon.

Before forming line of squads or deploying, what does he do?

He designates the center squad of the firing line and indicates the point of direction to the leader of the base squad.

What is required of the chiefs of sections in forming line of squads or skirmishers?

The chiefs of sections, at the preparatory command, place themselves in rear of their base squads in line, or abreast of them in column; they see that the base squads keep the line of direction.

Where do the corporals take post at the preparatory command for forming line of squads?

In front of their squads in line.

In deploying as skirmishers, where are the corporals located?

They take or keep their places in ranks, retaining supervision of their squads.

How may the firing line be formed?

One section may form the firing line, the other the support; or the entire platoon may be placed in the firing line.

Where is the post of the chief of the platoon when the firing line is established?

Between the firing line and the support.

Where is the chief of a section in the firing line posted?

Six paces in the rear of the center of his section.

For what must he be on the alert?

For signals from his chief of platoon.

Where is the chief of a section in support posted?

He places himself six paces in front of his section.

What does the support do when deployment is ordered?

The support halts until the firing line has advanced about 150 yards, or if the deployment be made by the flank, marches that distance to the rear, unless cover be found nearer the support.

When halted, how is the support disposed of for its protection?

It stands, kneels, or lies down, according to the nature of the cover; on open ground it may deploy.

What should be avoided?

Marching the support by the flank under fire.

LINE OF SQUADS.

560. **What is the normal interval between squads?**

About fifteen paces; when a greater or less interval is to be taken, it will be stated in the commands.

The platoon marching in line, give the commands and explanation to form line of squads.

1. *Line of squads*, 2. *On* (such) *squad*, 3. MARCH.

The corporal of the base squad leads it (Pars. 515 and 516) in the indicated direction; the corporals to the right of the base move their squads obliquely to the right, those to the left, obliquely to the left; each moves to the front when at his interval from the squad next toward the base.

When the base squad arrives on the line, the chief of platoon commands: 1. *Platoon*, 2. HALT.

The base squad halts; the others are halted on arriving on the line. On halting, the corporals place themselves three paces in rear of their squads.

If the platoon is marching in double time, or in quick time, and the command be "Double time," what will follow?

The base squad advances in quick time; the others move in double time and take the quick time on arriving on the line.

Where do the corporals remain?

In front of their squads.

If the platoon is at a halt, how is the line of squads formed?

The base squad stands fast; the others face and march away from the base squad; each corporal halts his squad when it has gained its interval.

561. **The platoon being in column of fours, give the commands and explanation to form line of squads to the front.**

1. *Right* (or *left*) *front into line of squads*, 2. MARCH, 3. *Platoon*, 4. HALT.

The movement is executed as in Par. 210; the corporals leading their squads to their proper places in line.

562. **The platoon being in column of fours, give the commands to form line of squads on right or left.**

1. *On right* (or *left*) *into line of squads*, 2. MARCH, 3. *Platoon*, 4. HALT.

Executed as in Par. 208, except that each corporal leads his squad to its proper place in line by the shortest route.

TO DEPLOY AS SKIRMISHERS.

563. **The platoon being in line of squads, give the commands and explanation to deploy as skirmishers.**

1. *As skirmishers*, 2. MARCH.

Executed by each squad (Pars. 523 and 524). These commands may be given at any time after the commencement of the movement to form line of squads; the squads that have their intervals deploy at once, the others when they gain their intervals.

564. **When may the platoon be deployed in the same manner as a squad?**

In exceptional cases.

The platoon being in line, give the commands and explanation to deploy it in the same manner as a squad.

1. *As skirmishers, on* (such) *squad,* 2. MARCH.

The deployment is made as in the squad (Pars. 523 and 524), number two front rank of the base squad being the base skirmisher; all the men of the line deploy on him; the squad leaders see that the men of their squads halt or march to the front as they individually gain their intervals.

TO INCREASE AND DIMINISH INTERVALS.

565. **The platoon being in line of squads, give the commands to increase or diminish intervals.**

1. *On* (such) *squad, to* (so many) *paces, extend* (or *close*), 2. MARCH.

The squads open from or close toward the base squad. If marching, the movement is executed obliquely; if at a halt, by the flank.

Being deployed as skirmishers, give the commands to increase or diminish intervals.

1. *On* (such) *squad, to* (so many) *paces, extend* (or *close*), 2. MARCH.

The skirmishers to the right and left of number two front rank man of the base squad extend from or close toward him (Par. 525).

THE ASSEMBLY.

566. **Give the procedure to assemble the platoon.**

The chief takes post where his platoon is to form, and signals or commands: 1. *Assemble,* 2. MARCH.

The squads move promptly toward him and re-form the platoon.

Give the commands to assemble by squads.

1. *Assemble by squads,* 2. MARCH.

Executed by each squad (Par. 532).

567. **How does the chief of platoon cause one or more squads to take a certain formation?**

He designates the squads and gives his orders.

MARCHINGS.

568. **Being in line of squads or skirmishers, give the procedure to advance.**

The chief of platoon indicates the point of direction to the leader of the base squad and commands: 1. *Forward,* 2. *Guide right* (*left* or *center*), 3. MARCH.

The base squad marches in the given direction; the others march abreast of the base, keeping their intervals.

569. **Being in line of squads or skirmishers, give the commands and explanation to march to the rear.**

1. *To the rear,* 2. MARCH, 3. *Guide right* (*left* or *center*).

The chief of platoon indicates the point of direction to the leader of the base squad after the line has faced to the rear.

570. **How is a slight change of direction made?**

The chief of platoon indicates the new point of direction; the squads conform promptly to the movements of the base.

How is a considerable change of direction effected?

The chief of platoon indicates the new point of direction and commands: 1. *Change direction to the right* (or *left*), 2. MARCH.

The right squad, which is the base, changes directions as if alone (Par. 530), and halts; the others conform to the new alignment.

571. **By what commands and means is the platoon in line of squads or skirmishers marched, by the flank and again in line?**

By the commands and means prescribed for the squad (Par. 528).

FIRINGS.

572. **In what manner will the platoon and section execute the firings?**

Whether closed or extended, they execute the firings as explained for the squad.

When may volley firing be used?

When the front is of such extent as to be controlled by the voice.

Give the commands of chief of platoon to fire by section or squad.

1. *Fire by section* (or *squad*), 2. (So many) *volleys*, indicates, when desirable, the objective and range, and adds: 3. COMMENCE FIRING.

Each section or squad executes the firings as if alone.

What is the regulation relative to the corporals firing?

The corporals take part in the firing, except when the firing is by squad.

What option has the chief of platoon in the firings?

He may designate one or more squads to fire.

573. **How may a section, constituting the firing line, execute the preceding movements?**

By the same commands and means, under the orders of the chief of section.

LINE OF SECTIONS.

574. **What is the normal interval between sections of three squads each?**

About forty-five paces.

Between sections of two squads each?

About thirty paces.

What movements may the platoon execute the same as the squad, substituting section for squad in the commands and explanation?

The platoon forms line of sections, marches in this formation, and increases and diminishes intervals between sections as explained for squads.

What movements may the section execute?

The section forms line of squads or skirmishers, rallies, assembles, and executes the firings and all other movements in extended order as explained for the platoon.

TO REINFORCE THE FIRING LINE.

575. **When there are intervals in the firing line, either on the outer flanks or between the groups, how is the line reinforced?**

The reinforcement is placed in these intervals.

What is this method of reinforcement called?

The group reinforcement, and it will be used when practicable.

When advancing, or being at a halt under cover, how may the firing line be reinforced?

The firing line may diminish intervals toward one flank, the support deploying and moving up into the space made vacant.

How may the firing line be reinforced under a heavy fire?

By deploying the support on the march, the men of the support placing themselves on the line between the skirmishers; officers and non-commissioned officers take charge of their proportionate parts of the front, and the action progresses as if no mixing had taken place.

When only should this last method be employed?

When the emergency demands a prompt reinforcement above all other considerations.

THE RALLY.

576. **How is the rally by platoon effected?**

The chief of platoon moves rapidly to the squad or place selected as a rallying point, and signals or commands: RALLY.

The firing line rallies as explained for the squad. The support approaches and selects a position from which it can render the most effective assistance.

How is the rally by sections made?

The chief of platoon commands: RALLY BY SECTIONS, and then joins one of the sections. The chiefs of sections hasten to place themselves in the center of their sections, signal, and repeat the command.

How is the rally by squads made?

The chief of platoon commands: RALLY BY SQUADS.

The squad leaders make the signal; the chiefs of sections and platoons join the nearest squads.

When, as a result of reinforcing, sections and squads are mixed, how will each group rally?

On the chief who commands it at the time.

What disposition is made of the platoon as soon as possible after rallying?

It is assembled or again deployed.

THE COMPANY.

577. **What is the battle formation of a company when it is part of a battalion?**

The company is in two echelons: a firing line and a support.

What is the fighting front of a company in battalion?

Usually twice its front in close order.

What is the battle formation of a company acting alone?

The company is in three echelons: a firing line, a support, and a reserve.

What are the distances between these echelons?

The distances vary with the nature of the ground and the effectiveness of the enemy's fire.

578. **How may a captain form his company when on the offensive, acting alone?**

He may place at first only one section in the firing line, with one in support; the other two constituting the reserve.

How may he form his company when on the defensive, acting alone?

On the defensive, two sections constitute the firing line, one the support, and one the reserve.

579. **As a rule, what sections are designated for the firing line?**

The center sections in line, or the leading sections in column or line of columns.

What also may be designated for the firing line?

A platoon.

580. **What movements may the company execute by the commands and means prescribed for the platoon?**

It forms line of squads or sections, deploys as skirmishers, increases and diminishes intervals, assembles, rallies, and executes the marchings and firings.

POSITIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

581. **Who is the instructor of the company?**

The captain.

Where does he take post?

Between the firing line and the support, or, if the formation be in three echelons, near the support.

What duties devolve upon the captain whose company acts alone?

He designates the sections for the firing line, support, and reserve, directs the action of the whole company, controls the reinforcement of the firing line, and keeps up the supply of ammunition, regulating distribution and expenditure.

How are his orders given?

By word of command, signals, or through orderlies.

To whom are his orders given?

To the commanders of the firing line, support, and reserve.

Who remains with the captain?

A musician.

What does the first lieutenant command?

The reserve, if there be one; otherwise the support.

What does the second lieutenant command?

The firing line, when it consists of only one section, or of one section from each platoon.

What disposition is made of the third lieutenant, if there be one?

He may be assigned by the captain; if the formation be in three echelons, he usually commands the support.

Where is the first sergeant posted?

The first sergeant, if not in command of a platoon or echelon, takes post near the captain.

By whom is the firing line commanded, if it consist of an entire platoon?

By its own lieutenant.

What command has the other lieutenant?

He commands the reserve or support.

When the whole company is in the firing line, what command has each lieutenant?

Each commands his own platoon.

Where is the post of the commander of the firing line?

Ten paces in rear of the firing line.

Where is the post of the commander of the support.

Ten paces in front of the center of the support.

Where is the post of the commander of the reserve?

Ten paces in front of the center of the reserve.

With whom does the commander of the reserve maintain communication, and how?

With the support and with the captain, sending forward men to act as messengers and repeat signals.

What commands do the commanders of echelons, or, which is the same, of the support and reserve, give?

Those necessary for the execution of the orders of the captain.

To what do those commanders give their special attention?

To the control and direction of the fire and to maintaining cohesion and concert of action.

582. **What is incumbent upon the commander of a force acting alone, before forming for attack or defense?**

To make the reconnaissance necessary to determine the best disposition to be made.

What is the rule relative to throwing out scouts?

Commanders of companies and larger units forming part of larger commands throw out scouts in their immediate vicinity. The number of scouts depends upon the nature of their duties and the extent and character of the front.

Who instructs the scouts?

The commander will give them such specific instructions as circumstances require.

What is the object for which scouts are sent out in front of the firing line?

To acquire information and to convey it to the command by means of signals previously agreed upon. These rules are general.

THE OFFENSIVE.

THE COMPANY IN BATTALION.

583. **When first coming within the zone of artillery fire, how is the company formed, and how far does it advance?**

It is formed in line and advances until the artillery fire becomes effective (on open ground, about twenty-five hundred yards from the enemy).

What does the captain do when the artillery fire becomes effective?

He orders a few scouts sent forward (usually from the sections to be in support), designates the noncommissioned officer to command them, indicating the objective to him and to the chiefs of platoons and sections.

At what gait must these scouts advance?

At an increased gait, unless the company be halted.

What next does the captain do?

He then designates two sections, preferably the second and third, for the firing line; the first and fourth for supports; gives the necessary instructions for the extension, and when the scouts have gained about one hundred and fifty yards to the front commands: 1. *Form for attack*, 2. MARCH.

What follows these commands?

The second lieutenant places himself in rear of the center, designates the center squad, and commands: *Guide center.*

The first lieutenant commands: 1. *First and fourth sections*, 2. HALT.

The chiefs of sections designate their sections and repeat the cautions necessary.

The second and third sections move forward, the corporal of the base squad advancing in the direction indicated.

When the firing line has advanced about two hundred yards, the first lieutenant puts the support in march; each chief of section in the support so directs his base squad as to keep his section in rear of the outer flank of the firing line.

584. **When do changes occur in the formation of the firing line?**

At about fourteen hundred yards the firing line forms line of sections and continues to move forward.

At about twelve hundred yards, it forms line of squads.

At about nine hundred yards, it deploys as skirmishers.

What is incumbent upon each section and squad while seeking cover?

Each should keep within the deploying limits of its proper front to avoid the mixing of sections and squads.

585. **When the scouts have advanced to within eight hundred yards of the enemy, or less, what may they find it necessary to do?**

To halt and await the arrival of the firing line.

What are the instructions relative to firing at this time?

Firing will be delayed as long as possible, though the captain may order volleys to be fired upon bodies of the enemy that expose themselves, or individual sharpshooters may be directed to fire. When the advance should no longer continue without firing, the captain directs the number of volleys to be fired at each halt (see Par. 543).

586. **Who gives the commands for the volleys?**

The commander of the firing line.

By what regulations will he be governed in the volley firing?

He must never exceed the number directed by the captain, but may reduce the number or omit the firing, to avoid a mere waste of ammunition.

587. **During this portion of the advance, what movement will the firing line execute? and for what purpose?**

It will close upon its center, in order to make space for the supports to come up on the outer flanks.

During this time, what has the support been doing?

The support has been drawing nearer to the firing line without waiting for orders, taking the formations most favorable for reinforcing, keeping under cover as far as practicable.

588. **How may the firing line advance from cover to cover?**

By rushes executed by the whole line if possible, or by alternate sections.

589. **For what should the arrival of supports upon the line usually be the signal?**

For a rush forward.

590. **When the line has approached within about five hundred yards of the enemy's position, how will the further advance be made?**

Alternate rushes will probably be necessary. The lieutenant gives the instructions while the men are lying down or behind cover, and then commands: 1. *Advance by rushes*, 2. *Third* (or *second*) *section fire two* (or *three*) *volleys*, 3. *Second* (or *third*) *section forward.*

The chief of the third section gives the commands for the volleys.

The instant the first volley is fired the chief of the second orders his section forward at double time; having advanced about fifteen yards, or to cover if there be any, he halts it by the commands: 1. *Fire two* (or *three*) *volleys* (*kneeling* or *lying down*), and completes the commands for the volleys.

The instant of the delivery of the first volley by the second section, the third moves forward at double time about fifteen yards in advance of the line occupied by the second. The third section then fires the specified number of volleys, the second advances about fifteen yards beyond the third, and so on; the attack is thus continued, each section advancing under cover of the fire and smoke of the other, the base squad keeping the line of direction.

591. **How long will volleys be used?**

To the last practicable moment. The chiefs of sections and the squad leaders assist in maintaining the strictest fire discipline.

592. **When does the captain send forward the supports to reinforce the firing line?**

During this period of the attack as soon as it becomes necessary to increase the intensity of the fire.

In what manner is the reinforcement by the supports effected?

The sections of the support reinforce the sections of their own platoons, advancing under cover of their fire and taking position so as to join in the next rush.

In moving forward to join the firing line, the supports move rapidly in order to avoid loss, and reinforce as in Par. 575.

The first lieutenant moves forward with the first section, and each lieutenant takes command of his own platoon; the rushes may then be made by platoon.

When may the commander of the support reinforce without waiting for orders?

In emergencies.

593. **What action does the captain take as the company approaches the enemy's position?**

He selects favorable ground from which to make the assault, and having attained this position, commands: *Rapid fire.*

What follows?

Platoon commanders then order bayonets fixed, caution the men to lay down the sights, and command: 1. *Rapid fire, kneeling,* 2. COMMENCE FIRING.

If any of the supports have not been brought up, they join the line at the command *Rapid fire.*

How is the charge effected?

To charge, the captain signals: CEASE FIRING, and commands: 1. *To the charge,* 2. MARCH.

The men rise and advance in double time.

Having arrived at about thirty yards from the enemy's position, the captain then commands: CHARGE.

The men charge bayonet, quicken the pace, and advance upon the enemy.

The charge being successful, what action does the captain take?

Having driven the enemy from his position, the captain selects ground in front favorable for firing upon the retreating enemy, or for resisting a counter-attack, and causes the assembly to be sounded, or, if necessary, the rally.

In case of repulse, what does the captain do?

He at once prepares to renew the attack.

RELIEVING THE FIRING LINE.

594. **What is the procedure for relieving the firing line?**

In the exceptional cases in which the firing line must be relieved, the captain notifies the firing line and gives orders to the support which is to replace it.

The support deploys so as to complete the movement in rear of the line and moves up into the intervals, or passes through the firing line, which is then marched to the rear and assembled.

If the line is marching to the rear, the captain orders the support to deploy; the firing line passes through the line thus formed, is assembled, and becomes the support or a part of it.

THE COMPANY ACTING ALONE.

595. **When the company is acting alone on the offensive, what does the captain first do?**

He determines upon the direction and character of the attack and indicates the rallying point.

How is the attack conducted, the company acting alone?

The attack is conducted on the principles explained for the company in battalion.

The firing line makes the front attack; the support reconnoiters and protects the flanks, and supports the front attack; the reserve, according to circum-

stances, makes a flank attack or participates in the front attack.

When the support is absorbed in the firing line, the reserve, which has been drawing nearer during the advance, should be about 150 yards from the firing line.

How is the action from this stage conducted?

The same as for the company in battalion; the reserve reinforcing the firing line as prescribed for the support.

Having driven the enemy from his position, for what purpose should a part or even the whole of the company be used?

To pursue him, unless pursuit would endanger advantages already gained.

THE DEFENSIVE.

THE COMPANY IN BATTALION.

596. **When the captain is ordered to take a defensive position, how does he execute the order?**

He conducts his company to the point selected and sends forward scouts, who connect with those from the adjacent companies.

He indicates to each subdivision the position it is to occupy and the defensive works to be constructed, such as abatis, shelter trenches, etc.

What are the division and formation of the company?

In general, the same as on the offensive.

To secure superiority of fire, how may the company be disposed?

It may have three sections in the firing line and one in the support from the beginning of the action.

What should be the purpose of the first resistance of the scouts?

That of causing the enemy to deploy and disclose his intentions.

This becoming apparent, what formation will the captain give the company?

The battle formation.

When is fire opened?

As soon as it can be made effective. Certain subdivisions may be designated to fire upon the enemy's supports and reserves.

How is the firing line reinforced?

As heretofore explained in Par. 575.

When is the support habitually absorbed in the firing line?

When the enemy arrives at about 500 yards from the position.

How is the defense continued?

With the assistance of the battalion reserve.

If the enemy be repulsed, how will the company act?

It takes the offensive.

If the enemy succeed, what will the company then do?

It withdraws and forms at the rallying point.

THE COMPANY ACTING ALONE.

597. **When the company acts alone, how does it proceed to its position?**

Depending upon the distance of the enemy, the company arrives at the position in battle formation or in order of march.

What is the procedure in the first case?

In the first case, the firing line is established on the position to be defended; the support and reserve are placed under cover; patrols are sent out in front and upon the flanks to reconnoiter.

What in the second case?

In the second case, the advance guard halts at the position and sends scouts and small patrols out in front and upon the flanks. The captain makes his preliminary dispositions as explained for the company in battalion, then takes the battle formation.

How does he dispose of the support and reserve?

So as to protect the flanks of the firing line.

With what object may the supports, either wholly or in part, be, from the very beginning of the engagement, placed in the firing line?

In order to secure superiority of fire and a front at least equal to that of the attack.

With what object will the captain keep a portion of his reserve in hand?

To execute a counter-attack at the moment the enemy reaches the position, or to cover the retreat.

Of what should advantage be taken?

Of every opportunity to make short and energetic counter-attacks upon the weak points of the enemy's line.

When the enemy is repulsed, what action should be taken?

He should be damaged as much as possible by increased energy of fire, and should be pursued unless this would compromise the security of the position.

If necessary to retreat, how is the same effected?

The captain disposes the remainder of his reserve in such position as to most readily hold the enemy in check, near one of the flanks, if possible; the firing line unmasks the reserve and takes position in rear of it, the reserve protects the retreat of the firing line and retires in turn under its protection.

The company thus retires from position to position.

When is the company in retreat assembled and placed in column of route?

When out of the range of the enemy.

When should a position be abandoned?

Unless ordered to the contrary, a position should not be abandoned except in the last extremity.

ACTION AGAINST CAVALRY.

598. **What importance should attach to the appearance of the enemy's cavalry?**

As a principle, the advance or attack of infantry should not be checked by the appearance of cavalry. The latter should be kept at a distance by means of volleys executed by subdivisions designated for this purpose.

If the company is in line and is attacked in front, how should the charge be received?

Without changing its formation.

If in line and attacked in flank?

The company, or a part of it on the threatened flank, changes front to face the attack.

If the company is in battle formation, and cavalry attack as foragers, or in mass, which is the better way to receive the attack?

It is better to receive the attack at a halt, than to rally.

What dispositions will be made relative to firing?

Only such as will develop the greatest intensity of fire.

If attacked in front?

The firing line opens fire; the sections of the support are placed in rear of the flanks to guard the latter and fire upon the horsemen who envelop them.

If attacked in flank?

The sections of the support and reserve face so as to find themselves arranged in echelon ready to protect the threatened flank by their fire.

If attacked by echelon?

The fire will not be directed upon a fraction already repulsed, but upon the one following it.

In a personal encounter with a mounted enemy, where should the foot soldier maintain his position?

On the left flank of the horsemen.

DEFENSE AND ATTACK OF ARTILLERY.

599. **How will infantry under artillery fire seek to lessen its effect?**

By appropriate formations and use of cover.

DEFENSE.

600. **What duty devolves upon the commander of infantry contiguous to artillery?**

He supports the batteries in his vicinity.

How is artillery separated from the other arms defended?

Such artillery is furnished with a special support.

How is artillery supported by infantry?

An infantry support for artillery protects the flanks and rear of the batteries and opposes the enemy's infantry or cavalry acting against them; it is usually posted on the flanks.

ATTACK.

601. **How is a company of infantry disposed for the attack of artillery?**

The company is disposed as for the attack of a position, but the firing line may be deployed as skirmishers at a greater distance and the front may be more extended; the rear echelons, if need be, are also deployed.

When artillery is in motion, upon what part of it is the fire preferably directed?

Upon the horses.

THE BATTALION.

602. **What principles of instruction apply to the battalion?**

The principles of instruction for the squad, platoon, and company in extended order.

603. **What is the formation of the battalion for battle?**

It is formed in three echelons: a firing line, a line of supports, and a reserve.

In battalion, what constitutes the fighting line?

The firing line and supports together are designated the fighting line.

Of how many companies may the fighting line be composed?

Of one, two, or even three companies.

EXTENSION.

604. **State what action the major takes preparatory to extension.**

Whatever be the formation of the battalion, the major designates the company or companies to form the fighting line and those for the reserve, gives instructions for forming line of sections or squads, or deploying as skirmishers, indicates the point of direction and the object of the movement, and commands: 1. *Form for attack*, 2. (Such) *the base company*, 3. MARCH.

What follows?

The captains of companies for the fighting line designate the sections for supports, and cause their companies to advance in the given direction and take the battle formation. The firing line extends as directed by the major and according to the principles explained for the company.

The extension having been completed, what should be the interval between the companies in the line of skirmishers?

About fifteen paces, which they should preserve during the advance.

Where is the reserve located?

The reserve is held about 300 yards in rear of the line of supports.

What is the fighting front of a battalion in regiment?

It should not exceed one and one-half times the front of the battalion in close order.

Where will the major take post?

Where he can best observe and direct the progress of the action, which is usually between the line of supports and reserve.

If he quits this place, what will he do?

He leaves a man there to tell where he may be found.

When the reserve companies are united in close order, who takes command of them?

The senior officer present on duty with them.

When the battalion opens fire, what will the mounted officers do?

They dismount; the horses are taken back to the reserve of the regiment.

When the color of a regiment is with a battalion that takes the battle formation, what disposition is made of it?

It joins the regimental reserve, whose commander either directs the color to join a certain company or detaches a guard to remain with it during the action.

MARCHINGS.

605. **How does the battalion in battle formation regulate its march?**

As explained for marching in line. The base squad keeps the line of direction, independently of the movements of the companies, under the supervision of the squad leader and the chief of section to which this squad belongs; if the companies for any reason are obliged to give way, they regain their places as soon as possible.

To what do the supports and reserve conform their movements?

To those of the firing line.

What is important?

That the line of direction should be correctly determined before taking up the advance.

If, however, changes of direction become necessary, how are they made?

Gradually by slightly changing the direction of the base squad from time to time.

RELIEVING AND REINFORCING THE FIRING LINE.

606. **On what principles may the firing line be relieved or reinforced?**

On those explained for the company, either as ordered by the major, or, in each company, by its captain. Relieving skirmishers is, however, an exceptional movement.

ASSEMBLING AND RALLYING.

607. **When does the major assemble the battalion?**

When no longer compelled to remain in extended order.

What order may he give?

He may order one or more, or even all the companies in the firing line, to rally.

What movement does the reserve execute, and with what object?

The reserve approaches and selects a favorable position for supporting the companies that have rallied.

THE BATTALION IN ACTION.

GENERAL RULES.

608. **What duties devolve upon the major when his battalion is in action?**

He regulates the progress of the action, sees that the firing line advances upon the indicated objective, hastens or delays the reinforcement by the supports, and disposes the reserve so as to guard against surprise; leaving the execution of details to his subordinates, he exercises a general control, and endeavors constantly to increase the energy of the action.

When necessary, he indicates what measures are to be taken to assure the occupation of the position, but should leave to each commander the discretion necessary to enable him to profit by all circumstances.

What duties devolve upon each captain in the fighting line?

Each captain in the fighting line regulates the march of the line within the limits assigned him, determines the distances to be passed over in rushes, and brings his support upon the firing line, pursuant to orders, or without orders if the necessities of the moment require; he directs the fire and regulates its intensity.

THE OFFENSIVE.

THE BATTALION IN REGIMENT.

609. **When the major receives orders to attack, his battalion being in regiment, what does he do?**

Whatever be the formation of the battalion, he designates the company or companies to form the fighting line and those for the reserve, gives instructions for forming line of sections or squads, or deploying as skirmishers, indicates the point of direction and the object of the movement, and com-

mands: 1. *Form for attack*, 2. (Such) *the base company*, 3. MARCH.

What follows?

The companies in the fighting line conform to what has been prescribed for the company (Pars. 583 to 594). The reserve conforms to the movements of the fighting line, and, without waiting for orders, gradually draws nearer, so as to be ready to replace the supports when the latter have been absorbed, the reserve companies taking the battle formation.

In what manner is the attack made?

The attack is made as prescribed for the company. When the firing line is about 500 yards from the enemy's position, the first echelon of the reserve is about 100 yards and the second about 200 yards in rear of the firing line.

When the major thinks necessary, what may he place in the firing line?

One or more platoons of the reserve.

What occurs when about 200 yards from the enemy?

Bayonets are fixed and the rapid fire is opened.

What disposition is made of the last of the reserve, in rear of the point at which the main effort is to be made?

It is held in readiness to reinforce the line.

What movement does the battalion in the second line of the regiment make, and for what purpose?

It draws nearer, so as to replace the battalion reserve if necessary, and take part in the charge.

If the rapid fire does not shake the enemy, what is done?

The remainder of the battalion reserve is quickly brought up, and another rush made, followed by the rapid fire.

What occurs during this firing?

The battalion of the second line reinforces the firing line; at the signal from the colonel, the field music sounds the charge and the whole line rushes upon the enemy.

What follows, as soon as the position has been carried?

The firing line advances until it has found a position favorable for firing upon the enemy.

What disposition is made of the parts of the reserve not in the firing line?

They hold themselves in readiness to pursue the enemy or to resist a counter-attack.

When are the companies assembled on the captured position?

At the first opportunity.

What disposition of his battalion will the major make?

He forms the battalion and disposes his troops so as to secure the position, and to pursue the enemy, if ordered.

If the attack is repulsed, what movement is executed?

The line rallies under the protection of the reserve.

THE BATTALION ACTING ALONE.

610. **On what principles is the action conducted, when the battalion acts alone on the offensive?**

The action is conducted on the general principles explained for the battalion in regiment; the front may be more extended, but the major must be

able to direct the action and secure the increasing power of the successive efforts. If the strength of his command warrants it, he may attack both in front and flank. He must cover his flanks and secure his line of communication.

The enemy having been located, the major makes his dispositions for attack.

If the attack succeeds, the battalion takes position and fires upon the enemy, as explained for the battalion in regiment, and, if opportunity offers, will pursue the enemy (Par. 595).

If repulsed, the rally is protected by the parts of the reserve that have not been engaged.

THE DEFENSIVE.

THE BATTALION IN REGIMENT.

611. **When the battalion is in regiment and acting on the defensive, on what principles is the reconnaissance and occupation of the position made?**

On the principles explained for the company acting alone, under the protection of the patrols commanded by one or more officers; these patrols not only endeavor to discover the enemy's position and direction of attack, but also keep his scouts and reconnoitering parties at a distance.

What is the battle formation?

As a rule, the battle formation is the same as on the offensive. When it is desirable to have an extended and dense firing line from the start, the two companies in the fighting line may be directed to keep but one section each in support. The same result is obtained by placing three companies in the fighting line, each having two sections in support.

What determines the line of defense?

The line of defense is in general determined by the configuration of the ground.

What points should usually be strongly occupied?

Those that command a clear field of fire in front and afford cover.

What should the different parts of the front be able to do?

To assist each other.

To accomplish this object, by what should they be "not" separated?

By impassable obstacles.

Time and circumstances permitting, by what should the position be strengthened?

By hasty entrenchments.

What points in the line are placed in a state of defense or are strengthened by field works?

The strong points in the line, such as woods, fences, buildings, rising grounds, etc.

In the selection of these points, what is the chief consideration?

A clear field of fire toward the front and flanks.

How are the strong points connected?

By shelter trenches, intervals being left to facilitate counter-attacks and for passing from the defensive to the offensive.

On what principles is the action conducted?

On those explained for the company in battalion on the defensive (Par. 596).

Upon what do the dispositions of the rear echelons of the battalion depend?

Upon the movements of the assailant.

What is incumbent upon the defender?

He uses every means to overwhelm, by fire, such bodies of the enemy as remain in close order.

In what proportion are the supports placed in the firing line?

In proportion to the necessities of the case.

What fire should troops in rear, firing over the heads of those in front, use?

Volleys only.

When is the firing line reinforced by a part of the reserve?

When all the supports are in the firing line and the enemy probably within 500 yards of the position.

What disposition is made of the remaining part of the reserve?

It is held ready either to add the effect of its fire to that of the line or to assist in the counter-attack when the offensive is taken up.

By what may the firing line be reinforced, if necessary, in the last stage of the action?

By the entire reserve.

If retreat becomes necessary, how is it conducted?

As prescribed for the company.

When all of the battalion reserves have been absorbed on the firing line, what duties devolve upon the second line?

The troops in the second line take position and protect the battalion while rallying, or, by an energetic counter-attack, endeavor to gain the ascendancy.

When, in obedience to orders, resistance is not to be carried to the last extremity, how is the retreat executed?

By echelons from position to position.

THE BATTALION ACTING ALONE.

612. **What principles apply to the battalion acting alone?**

The general principles stated for the company acting alone.

Until when should the battalion "not" deploy?

The battalion should not deploy before the enemy's position is known.

What conditions must be observed when the battalion takes position and prepares to receive the attack?

The front must be sufficiently occupied and extended from the beginning of the action; this will usually require two companies in the fighting line; the other two companies are held in reserve, in rear of the supports, covering the flanks and extending beyond them.

When the supports have been absorbed in the firing line, they are replaced by the reserve companies, which are disposed so as to protect the flanks.

When the front of the position is very strong, a relatively greater part of the command may be placed in the reserve to insure more decisive effect in counter-attacks.

DISPOSITIONS OF A BATTALION.

OPERATING ON A FLANK OF A LINE.

613. **What are the special objects in view when having a battalion execute movements on a flank of a line?**

The special object may be to secure the flank, to envelop the enemy's flank, or to engage the enemy at one point, while the regiment or brigade prepares and executes the principal attack at another.

When executing movements in these different cases, by what principles is the major governed?

By those laid down for the offensive or defensive action of the battalion in regiment, as the case may require.

AS ADVANCE GUARD OF A REGIMENT.

614. **What rules govern the battalion acting as an advance guard of a regiment?**

The advance guard acts offensively or defensively, according to circumstances. Its action is subordinate to that of the main body; it should carefully avoid becoming so involved as to compel the latter to depart from its original purpose.

How does the battalion, as the advance guard of a regiment, act on the offensive?

As prescribed for the battalion acting alone.

How does the battalion, as the advance guard of a regiment, act on the defensive?

It may take the battle formation with three or even four companies at the first indication of the presence of the enemy; the strong points are occupied and the front extended as much as necessary to prevent being outflanked.

If the enemy, without attacking, shows himself in force, the battalion occupies the strong points.

AS REAR GUARD OF A REGIMENT.

615. **What is the object of the rear guard, and how does it act?**

To retard the enemy, so as to enable the main body to gain time or distance; it acts chiefly on the defensive.

If the battalion acts as rear guard to a regiment, what will it "not" do if attacked?

It will not carry resistance so far as to be cut off from the main body.

Of what is advantage taken?

Advantage is taken of any want of precaution on the part of the enemy to draw him into ambush or to make sudden, short, and energetic offensive returns.

The rear guard may sometimes take the offensive; state when.

When it is guarding a defile during the passage of the main body, or when opposing the egress of the enemy at the outlet of a pass.

To what extent should a rear guard "not" fight?

The rear guard should not fight to extremity, except to secure the safety of the main body.

AGAINST CAVALRY.

616. **What principles govern the battalion in action against cavalry?**

The principles stated for the company apply to the battalion.

If there be time, the major may place the companies in echelon.

To this end he indicates the base company, the interval and distance which should separate the echelons, and the relative positions of the companies.

The base company stands fast; the others are rapidly led by their captains to the places they are to occupy.

How are the echelons formed?

By advancing companies on the flank farthest from the enemy's artillery; they are disposed in such a manner as to afford the heaviest possible fire without risk of firing into one another.

DEFENSE AND ATTACK OF ARTILLERY.

617. **What principles govern the battalion in the defense and attack of artillery?**

The principles stated for the company apply to the battalion.

DEFENSE.

618. **How are the companies posted in defense of artillery?**

In front of the intervals between groups of batteries and on flanks, so as not to hinder the fire of the artillery; they are held ready to meet the attack.

ATTACK.

619. **How is the battalion disposed for an attack on artillery?**

As for the attack of a position.

In what manner is the advance made?

The parts in close order advance in echelons and thin lines; the advance is led on as rapidly as possible and the attack precipitated when within a short distance of the guns.

In what manner is the action conducted?

According to the general principles explained for the company, and the attack should be made against a flank if possible.

If the artillery be supported by infantry, the major directs against the latter a sufficient force to silence its fire, and uses the remainder of his battalion against the artillery.

NIGHT OPERATIONS.

620. **What are the principles governing troops making a night attack?**

To be successful, a night attack should be a surprise; it should be prepared secretly, avoiding indica-

tions that might attract the attention of the enemy.

Once engaged, it is necessary to act vigorously and promptly.

It is essential to operate over ground known in advance.

It is equally important that the leaders of the different units be carefully instructed as to the parts they are to take, the field assigned them, the rallying points, and the line of retreat.

On the offensive, the troops usually operate in compact formation, so as to be kept in hand and to prevent misunderstandings.

Under cover of darkness the assailant approaches, in order and silence, and without firing, as near as possible to the enemy's position; he then assaults resolutely, not replying to the fire, and comes as quickly as possible to the encounter, hand to hand.

What are the principles governing troops on the defensive in a night attack?

On the defensive, when a night attack is expected, the position is reinforced by troops, or strengthened by obstacles or hasty entrenchments; the positions to be occupied by the different units are indicated and understood beforehand.

After the opening of the action, all movements which could produce disorder or confusion are avoided.

The fire is directed particularly upon the approaches to position.

THE REGIMENT.

621. **What are the principles which apply to the regiment in extended order?**

The principles explained for the battalion apply.

When is a battalion said to be in the fighting line?

A battalion in battle formation is said to be in the fighting line when it has any part in the firing line. This rule applies to larger commands.

In what manner is the regiment formed for battle?

In two or three lines, depending upon the extent of front to be occupied; this should not exceed the front of the regiment formed in one line in close order increased by one-half the interval between it and the adjacent regiments.

What is the disposition of the battalions when the regiment is in two lines?

Two battalions constitute the fighting line; the other is posted as reserve about six hundred yards in rear.

What is the disposition of the battalions when the regiment is in three lines?

One battalion forms the fighting line, one about six hundred and the other about twelve hundred yards in rear.

Where may the reserve be posted?

In rear of the center, or in rear of one or both flanks.

Where does the colonel take post?

Near the center of the line of the battalion reserves of the fighting line; if called elsewhere, he indicates his position.

What are the duties devolving upon him during action?

He superintends the action and directs the majors of battalions in reserve when to reinforce.

What formations will the battalions in reserve take?

Unless the colonel specifies the formations for battalions in reserve, the majors adopt the formations they deem best suited to the ground and other circumstances.

THE BRIGADE IN BATTLE.

622. **What circumstances determine the formation of a brigade in battle?**

The formation depends upon whether the brigade is acting alone or with other troops, and varies in each case to suit the extent and character of the front to be occupied.

623. **If in one line, what is the formation?**

Two battalions constitute the fighting line of each regiment, the third battalion of each regiment being held as a regimental reserve. In this case there is no separate brigade reserve, unless furnished by another brigade.

624. **If in two lines, what is the formation?**

In two lines, the two leading regiments constitute the fighting line of the brigade and are formed as above. The rear regiment, as a second line, constitutes the brigade reserve and is posted about six hundred paces in rear of the reserve battalions of the leading regiments; it will be given the battle formation if necessary.

If the brigade approaches the field of battle marching in column of fours, what formation may the general order?

He may order the leading regiments on the fighting line, without regimental reserves, and supply a battalion from the rear regiment to each regiment in the fighting line as a reserve.

What is the objection to this formation, and when only will it be resorted to?

This formation is open to the objection of speedily disintegrating the rear regiment, and will be resorted to only when a rapid extension of front is of the first importance.

625. **For a more powerful attack, how may the regiments be formed?**

They may be formed side by side, each regiment in three lines. The colonels will avoid calling on their second battalions prematurely; the third battalions should not enter action without orders from the general.

626. **What changes will the brigade commander make in the foregoing formation?**

Such as are rendered necessary by the character of the action and the nature of the ground.

627. **Where is the general or brigade commander located?**

He has no fixed position, but will always indicate where reports will be received.

628. **If the brigade commander is compelled to give an order to a battalion's commander, what should he do?**

He should so inform his colonel as soon as practicable.

629. **What is the regulation relative to the first line passing from close to extended order?**

The general may direct when the troops composing the first line shall pass from close to extended order, or this may be left to the discretion of the regimental and battalion commanders.

630. **What is the general rule relative to posting the brigade reserve?**

A reserve need not necessarily be posted in rear of the line; frequently it may be advantageously formed in echelon with that line.

TO WITHDRAW THE BRIGADE.

631. **State the procedure to withdraw the brigade.**

The general sends orders to the colonels: *Withdraw and form in one* (or *two*) *line on* (such) *battalion*,

(such) *regiment;* or, *Withdraw and form in column on* (such) *battalion,* (such) *regiment.*

The general indicates the position to be occupied by the designated battalion and the colonels add the necessary commands. The battalions form in the same order as before the deployment, or the general may change this order.

If the order be to "form in column," what will be understood?

Column of fours, unless the general indicates another formation.

THE DIVISION IN BATTLE.

632. **What is the battle formation of the division?**

It may be formed with one or two brigades in the fighting line, and the others in the reserve, or the three brigades may be placed in the fighting line; in either case, each brigade takes one of the formations prescribed for the *Brigade in Battle.*

The artillery takes the positions assigned by the division commander.

Officers in command of the reserves will adopt such formations as will not unnecessarily interfere with the maneuvers of the other arms.

633. **On what principles does the division commander conduct the action?**

On the principles prescribed for smaller commands.

634. **For what purpose will the officers of the reserve be constantly on the alert?**

To prevent any panic that may arise among the troops of the first line spreading to their own.

635. **What is stated relative to the reserve?**

The reserve is not necessarily united; the regiments and battalions composing it may be posted in rear of different parts of the first line.

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